

April 3, 2011

Senator Jill N. Tokuda
Senatorial District 24
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Nomination of Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui to the Board of Education

Dear Ms. Tokuda:

In response to your request for a written statement, I submit the following:

1. Why did you decide to apply to serve on the BOE?

I was called to be part of the large-scale change towards the highest quality public education system in service to our children of Hawai'i. Thus, it becomes a responsibility of mine as kanaka makua to join the community's efforts to build a foundation for their success.

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of individual members and the overall role of BOE in regards to educational decision-making?

As individual board members making educational decisions, we must foremost take responsibility for our collective performance. We do this by a) demonstrating personal humility, b) establishing appropriate rules of engagement, c) fulfilling set board-level fiduciary and strategic responsibilities, and d) being a source of leadership and support to the Superintendent and other key stakeholders for the public school system.

3. Why do you believe you are qualified for this position?

Three of the qualities that will serve me best in this position are:

Strategizing:

The BOE is responsible for developing and protecting a clear, long-term strategic vision for Hawai'i's public schools.

As Chief Executive Officer for the YWCA of O'ahu, I led the revitalization of the agency's community building strategy in an environment of very limited resources to create a more sustainable business model for its mission objectives. Part of this effort included the raising of \$14 million for capital

improvements at three historic facilities and the launch of several new youth development programs including Culinary Arts for Enterprising Youth (CAFE Y), Camp \$tart Up, Life Inc. - career and college exploration program for teens, Youth Advisory Board and Young Leader Luncheon.

Networking:

Board of Education members must have the ability to function among diverse colleagues as an effective team member with the ability to help shape consensus surrounding board policies.

My constituency building and governance experience includes service on several community boards and committees including Hawai'i Alliance for Non-Profit Organizations (HANO), Aloha United Way, Kamehameha Schools Trustee Selection Committee, The Center for Asian Pacific American Women, Hawai'i Tourism Authority's Hawaiian Cultural Advisory Committee, and Hogan's Entrepreneurs Advisory Board at Chaminade University. I have also actively participated in Youth Matters Network, a statewide network of youth-serving non-profit organizations, to develop youth outcomes and effective program practices to prepare our children for success in life.

Learning:

Board of Education members must have a commitment to education and educational leadership.

I love to learn. In the native Hawaiian language, the word "a'o" is marked appropriately to indicate the reciprocal action of either "to teach" or "to learn". As a continuous learner, I have attended many leadership programs such as Harvard's Executive Educational programs - Strategic Perspectives and Performance Measurements for Non Profit Management, the Native Hawaiian Leadership Academy, and Executives Leading Sustainable Change. I also graduated as 'ōlapa from Hālau Mōhala `Ilima and continue as a student of hula and native Hawaiian language.

As "teacher" at the early age of 13, I created "Peachwood Playschool" to provide an after-school babysitting program for neighborhood children. I have also hosted "Entrepreneurship", a televised course for the Department of Education to educate high school students on self-employment and business plan writing skills. In 2005, I started Women Leading Change-Hawai'i in partnership with the Institute for Women's Leadership to provide leadership training and alumni network to 6 cohorts and over 100 executive women.

4. Please identify one short- and one long-term goal and how you would accomplish during your term of service?

As an appointed member for a one-year term, I would hope to be part of the foundation setting for the longer-term strategic goals and priorities as outlined in the Strategic Plan and Race to the Top application. Part of this foundation setting is the need to build the public's trust and confidence in its newly appointed BOE. Initially, as a Board we can adopt a statement of mutual expectations among board members to enable a cohesive and well-aligned Board. This starts the culture shift that values interdependence and collective accountability necessary for a decentralized school administration and a highly engaged community all focused on greater student achievement.

5. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests and how would you overcome them?

I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interests. I would address any potential conflict immediately with full disclosure starting with the Board Chair in order to achieve a timely and appropriate resolution.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my statement in support of my appointment to the Board of Education. If you should have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at ckauhanelupenui@gmail.com or (808) 383-4227.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Ka 'uhane Lupenui

GM656

Testimony

April 6, 2011

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui

Re: Testimony Relating to Mrs. Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui for Appointment to the Board of Education

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to be considered for the position of member of the Board of Education for the State of Hawai'i. It is an honor to be called to this evolving, large-scale change effort to ensure the highest quality public education system. I share in the responsibility of this community-wide effort to build a foundation for success for our children.

To foster this success, the Board of Education has a key role in creating the conditions for the highest level of engagement by students, teachers, principals, parents, and the larger community. We can do this by a) demonstrating personal humility, b) establishing high expectations and appropriate rules of engagement, c) fulfilling set board-level fiduciary and strategic responsibilities, and d) being a source of leadership, caring and support to the Superintendent and other key stakeholders for the public school system.

One of the key responsibilities of the Board of Education is to set a clear, long-term strategic vision for Hawai'i's public schools. My experience as Chief Executive Officer for the YWCA of O'ahu was a special opportunity to develop and implement a new strategy requiring a culture that would rebuild engagement among members in support of greater wellbeing for women and their families. An important strategic objective in this effort was to bring the voice of young women back to the YWCA by launching several new youth development programs including Culinary Arts for Enterprising Youth (CAFE Y), Camp \$tart Up, Life Inc. - career and college exploration program for teens, Youth Advisory Board and Young LeaderLuncheon.

Board of Education members must also have the ability to function among diverse colleagues as an effective team member with the ability to help shape consensus surrounding board policies.

My constituency building and governance experience includes service on several community boards and committees including Hawai'i Alliance for Non-Profit Organizations (HANO), Aloha United Way, Kamehameha Schools Trustee Selection Committee, The Center for Asian Pacific American Women, Hawai'i Tourism Authority's Hawaiian Cultural Advisory Committee, and Hogan's Entrepreneurs Advisory Board at Chaminade University. I have also actively participated in Youth Matters Network, a statewide network of youth-serving non-profit organizations, to develop youth outcomes and effective program practices to prepare our children for success in life.

Board of Education members must have a commitment to education and educational leadership. As a continuous learner, I have attended many leadership programs such as Harvard's Executive Educational programs - Strategic Perspectives and Performance Measurements for Non Profit Management, the Native Hawaiian Leadership Academy, and Executives Leading Sustainable Change. I also graduated as 'ōlapa from Hālau Mōhala `Ilima and continue as a student of hula and native Hawaiian language. As teacher I hosted "Entrepreneurship", a televised course for the Department of Education to educate high school students on self-employment and business plan writing skills. In 2005, I started Women Leading Change-Hawai'i in partnership with the Institute for Women's Leadership to provide leadership training and alumni network to 6 cohorts and over 100 executive women.

In support of the State's overarching goal of improving student achievement, I hope to focus on community-based strategies for developing great teachers and leaders, establishing standards of excellence with collective accountability, and building systems and communities of support so every student realizes his or her greatest potential.

Thank you very much for your support!

Sincerely,

Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Friday, April 8, 2011, 1:15 PM
State Capitol Room 225

Testimony of
Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor, State of Hawaii

To the Senate Education Committee
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

GM656 Confirmation of **Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui** to the
State of Hawai'i Board of Education

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

I am pleased to support the confirmation of Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education. I have appointed Lupenui to represent the City & County of Honolulu for a one-year term ending June 30, 2012.

Most recently, Lupenui served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Young Women's Christian Association of O'ahu, where she led strategic planning, development and management of over \$10 million in assets and an operating budget of \$3 million. In her ten years as President and CEO, Lupenui led a community building strategy to transform the YWCA's brand and membership from a "swim and gym" organization to a women's center addressing professional and personal well being. I was impressed by Lupenui's ability to lead an organization pursuing the ambitious mission of "eliminating racism, empowering women" and realizing the mission through very practical programs such as "Dress for Success" which provides economically disadvantaged women with career attire and emotional support in preparing for job interviews.

Lupenui's prior professional experience includes the sole proprietor of "Broke the Mouth" and Assistant Vice President of Business Development at Servco Pacific.

Lupenui is actively involved in community organizations, serving as a board member for the Hawaii Alliance for Non-Profit Organizations, Aloha United Way, Youth Matters Network, the Kamehameha Schools Trustee Selection Committee, Center for Asian Pacific American Women, Hawaii Tourism Authority – Hawaiian Cultural Advisory Committee, PBS Hawaii, and Hogan’s Entrepreneurs Program at Chaminade University. She has been awarded numerous accolades including, recognition in Hawaii Business Magazine a one of “25 People Who Will Shape the Next 25 Years” and Asian Pacific American Women’s Leadership Institute National Fellow.

Lupenui’s business background and networking ability will be invaluable as we look to restructure our public educational system and engage community organizations and the public. Lupenui also brings a sincere and genuine passion for improving education as seen through her own educational background and her insistence on lifelong learning.

I am excited that Lupenui is willing to serve on the BOE. I am confident of the contributions that she will make to the board and to improving public education in Hawai’i. I know that you will find Lupenui well qualified for the BOE and encourage you to confirm her.



KANEOHE
RANCH

April 6, 2011

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Education Committee
Hawaii State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol – Room 218
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Hearings re GM651 through GM659

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

As a member of the business community engaged in the improvement of our State's public school system since at least 2002, I am writing to urge the Committee to confirm Governor Abercrombie's appointment to the State Board of Education of all nine individuals noted in GM651 through GM659.

Because of pressing matters that require policy leadership by the Board of Education in the next few weeks, it is crucial that the new Board be put in place as quickly as possible. Among these matters are the negotiation of new contracts with the teachers' and principals' unions, and the advancement of bold reform initiatives outlined in the State's winning Race to the Top plan.

Thank you for your kind consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

H. Mitchell D'Olier
President and
Chief Executive Officer



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

April 6, 2011

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

Re: Confirmation of Mrs. Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui for Board of Education –
Support

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am delighted at the nomination of Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui to the Board of Education. Her career accomplishments, in particular her work with the YWCA, demonstrate that she is a leader inspired and driven to achieve community good. She led the YWCA through transformation, turning a status quo culture into an innovative one. She paid attention to her customers and developed programs that met their emerging needs.

Cheryl is well suited for leadership in service of our community. In my interactions with her, she has consistently placed community goals as her first priority. She always looks for new ways to solve old problems and has infectious optimism regardless of the challenge.

I wholeheartedly support Cheryl's nomination and look forward to hers and the Board's leadership in support of the Superintendent and her team's singular focus on transforming public education.

Sincerely,

Dee Jay Mailer
Chief Executive Officer
Kamehameha Schools



REHABILITATION HOSPITAL
OF THE PACIFIC

Rebuilding Lives Together

April 4, 2011

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Gary A. Okamoto, MD
Senior VP and Chief Medical Officer
Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

RE: Confirmation of **Cheryl Ka`uhane Lupenui** for Board of
Education – Support
Hearing Date: Friday, April 8, 2011
Hearing Time: 1:15pm
Conference Room: 225, State Capitol

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:


I **support**, without reservations, the nomination of Cheryl K. Lupenui to a seat on the newly appointed Board of Education. My reasons are based on 12-13 years of appreciating her excellent leadership as CEO of the YWCA and my knowing her personally thru a not-for-profit organization since 2010.

Her understanding of our community reflects her wide and deep experience outside of her "day job." She has been a volunteer leader for organizations -- Aloha United Way, Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Chaminade University, Kamehameha Schools, and Hawaii Alliance for Non-Profit Organizations. She knows how to define social problems for which solutions can be strategized; and she has the energy, imagination, and political will to be decisive.

Ms. Lupenui will bring to the BOE policy solutions such as women as leaders, social entrepreneurship, perpetuation of our Hawaiian culture, community servant, and youth development around mind-body-spirit. She is light on the education ideology but heavy on pragmatism focused on priorities of quality public student-graduates, outstanding faculty, and sound business practices.

I strongly urge your Committee to approve Ms. Lupenui for a seat on the newly created Board of Education.

Sincerely,


Gary A. Okamoto, MD

Aloha United Way

200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-3938
Telephone (808) 536-1951
Fax (808) 543-2222
Website: www.auw.org



April 4, 2011

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Friday, April 8, 2011 at 1:15 P.M.
Conference Room 225

GM 656: Confirmation to the Board of Education, Cheryl Ka`uhane Lupenui – in Strong Support

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members:

Aloha United Way encourages your favorable consideration of GM 656 which confirms the Governor's appointment of Cheryl Ka`uhane Lupenui to the Board of Education.

Ms. Lupenui's extensive experience and demonstrated leadership and management skills as the President and CEO of the YWCA of Oahu will enable her to make a major contribution as we navigate through the current budget difficulties and attempt to implement the improvements envisioned for our public education system.

Ms. Lupenui serves on the Board of Directors of Aloha United Way and is a long-time volunteer with our organization. She has served on important committees and task forces where we valued her wise counsel and advice as we have created our funding priorities particularly in the critical areas of early childhood development and education.

Aloha United Way strongly encourages favorable consideration of Cheryl's appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Doyle
President & Chief Professional Officer



For over 100 years,
preparing children for success

2707 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Phone: (808) 941-9414
Fax: (808) 946-1468

www.kcaapreschools.org

April 4, 2011

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Christina Cox
President

Re: Confirmation of Mrs. Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui for Board of
Education-**Support**

Hearing date: Friday, April 8, 2011
Hearing time: 1:15 pm
Conference Room: 225, State Capitol

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Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Cheryl has been a skilled leader whom I have admired for many years. She has been an active member of the education and youth communities. She led a successful campaign to re-develop the YWCA, raising more than \$14 million to renovate its historical facilities.

As the Chief Executive Officer of the YWCA she launched a variety of youth development programs for teens that were rather "out of the box" including projects involving culinary arts. This is just the kind of approach we need from a member of the Board of Education.

As you review her resume you will see that the range of her experience has been broad and innovative. There has been one common thread throughout and that has been to both educate and to promote self-sufficiency in the populations being served.

Ms. Lupenui would be a wonderful addition to the Board of Education and would work tirelessly to help ensure that Hawaii's *keiki* are given the tools they need to succeed.

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of Cheryl Lupenui to the Hawaii State Board of Education.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

April 5, 2011

The Honorable Jill W. Tokuda
Chair, Senate Committee on Education

Re: Confirmation of Ms. Cheryl Ka'uhane-Lupenui for Board of Education

Hearing Date: Friday, April 8, 2011
Hearing Time: 1:15PM
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani & Members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of Cheryl Ka'uhane-Lupenui's nomination to serve on the Hawai'i State Board of Education (the Board). If confirmed, I am confident that Cheryl will serve our community, and our children, with distinction.

The Board's primary role is to set policy and a long-term strategic vision for Hawai'i's public schools. Cheryl has the substantive experience needed to serve in this important role. As the CEO of the YWCA, Cheryl developed and executed a new community building strategy. Cheryl also has shown her commitment to our children by, among other things, launching a number of youth development programs and participating in Youth Matters Network.

In addition to the professional experience needed to serve as an effective Board member, Cheryl also has the required personal attributes. She has a strong work ethic, is a quick study, can articulate her ideas and vision, has integrity and character and is passionate about our island community. Cheryl also fully appreciates the uniqueness of our islands, and the need to preserve our culture.

If you have any questions about this letter, or if I can provide additional information about Cheryl, please feel free to contact me. I unequivocally, and enthusiastically, support Cheryl's nomination. She will be a tremendous addition to the Board.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Broderick
President & CEO

91-1841 Fort Weaver Road
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706
Phone 808.681.3500
Fax 808.681.5280
Email cfs@cfs-hawaii.org
www.childandfamilyservice.org



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April 8, 2011

Testimony on GM 656

Confirmation Hearing for Mrs. Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui, Board of Education
Senate Committee on Education

Chair: The Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda

Vice-Chair: The Honorable Sen. Michelle Kidani

Friday, April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m., Room 225, State Capitol

Presented by Howard S. Garval, MSW, President & CEO

Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani and Committee members:

I am pleased to submit this testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Mrs. Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui to the Board of Education.

Cheryl and I met before I came to Hawaii five years ago when we both attended a week long program at Harvard University called "Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management". At that time around 2000 Mrs. Ka'uhane Lupenui was fairly new to her CEO position at the YWCA and I was in Hartford, Connecticut. Since I arrived in Hawaii in 2006 Cheryl and I have worked together in a variety of ways. The Board of Education would be lucky to have a leader like Mrs. Ka'uhane Lupenui. She is a great strategic thinker who can envision a better future for any organization and then provide leadership to support the organization in moving towards that brighter future. The public schools of Hawaii badly need someone with these talents to look strategically at the DOE and support a vision that will raise the level of quality of Hawaii's schools for our keiki. Cheryl also will work very well as a board member with other board members not just because she has several experiences serving on boards and working with boards as a CEO, but because she is a collaborator at heart. This is badly needed for the entire board. At the YWCA Cheryl revitalized the organization's commitment to its younger members by launching several new youth oriented programs. She also hosted "Entrepreneurship", a televised course for the DOE to educate high school students on self-employment and business plan writing skills. She also participated in the Youth Matters Network, a statewide network of youth-serving nonprofit organizations focused on developing outcomes and effective program practices to prepare our children for success in life. Mrs. Ka'uhane Lupenui also brings the important perspective of Native Hawaiian culture and values and she is both a student of hula and the native Hawaiian language. As a Native Hawaiian she brings a sensitivity and understanding of a very important group of students and families in Hawaii. Cheryl also brings a younger voice to the Board and this is another aspect that adds to the diversity of voices that are important to have on the Board of Education.

For all of the reasons stated above, I humbly urge you to confirm Mrs. Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui to the Board of Education..

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

With warm Aloha,
Howard



Our Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children

Erin Conner

From: CNakamura@thelearningcoalition.org
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 2:58 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: GM 656: Written testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, CHERYL KA'UHANE LUPENUI, for a term to expire 6-30-2012
Attachments: HEE Voting Members and Participants 20110301.pdf

HE'E Coalition

4224 Waialae Ave., Ste 322

Honolulu, HI 96816

Tel: 808-926-1530

Fax: 808-926-1533

www.HEECoalition.org

April 8, 2011

Senate Committee on Education

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Friday, April 8, 2011 at 1:15 pm

Conference Room 225

GM 656: Written testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, CHERYL KA'UHANE LUPENUI, for a term to expire 6-30-2012

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members:

Hui for Excellence in Education, (HE'E), a statewide education coalition working to improve public education through family and community engagement, has reviewed the Governor's nominees for the Board of Education and found that all of the nominees meet the minimum qualifications required in the new law creating the appointed BOE (Act 5 of 2011).

HE'E is made up of voting, non-voting members (list attached), individuals and policy makers. HE'E's endorsement is supported by at least 75% of its voting members. This insures that any action taken by the group is of significant importance to the coalition as a whole.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura

HE'E Coalition Director



HE'E Coalition Voting Members (*) and Participants

*Academy 21

DOE Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Support

DOE Parent Community Networking Center

*DOE Windward District

*Faith Action Community for Equity

*Good Beginnings Alliance

Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

Hawai'i Charter School Network

*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

*Hawai'i Education Matters

Hawai'i P-20

*INPEACE

Joint Venture Education Forum

*Kanu Hawai'i

*Leaders for the Next Generation

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

*Our Public School

*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

*Parents and Children Together

Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Punahou School PUEO Program

UH College of Education

UH Law School

United States Army

Lyla Berg

Norman Sakamoto



Hawaii Education Matters
111 Hekili Street, Suite A1606
Kailua, HI 96734
Tel: 808-888-6922
www.hawaiieducationmatters.org

April 8, 2011

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Friday, April 8, 2011 at 1:15 pm
Conference Room 225

GM 656: Comments on Gubernatorial Nominee, CHERYL KA'UHANE LUPENUI, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members:

Hawaii Education Matters (HEM) is a non-partisan, non-profit parent advocacy organization dedicated to quality public education in our state.

We feel that the amount of information provided on Ms. Lupenui by the Governor was limited. Please consider asking Ms. Lupenui the following questions, taken directly from the new law (Act 5 Of 2011). We hope these questions will help the Committee better evaluate the candidate. In addition we have included a question related to community and family engagement and would ask that you also consider this question in your evaluation of the candidate.

1. Please have the candidate describe her experience with collective bargaining.
2. Please have the candidate describe her experience with complex organizations.
3. Please have the candidate describe her experience working among diverse colleagues and in developing consensus based policies.
4. Because HEM is a parent advocacy organization we would like to hear the candidate's thoughts on enhancing parent and community engagement in our public schools. Does the candidate know of any particularly effective community engagement models that could be

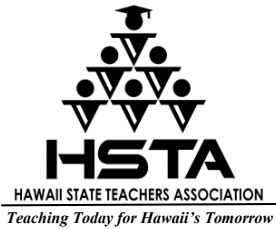
replicated?

HEM was recently named in SCR 145 by Senator Tokuda (a concurrent resolution to develop a statewide parent/community engagement policy) to work with BOE on developing this policy prior to the 2012 legislative session. What does the candidate feel is the role of community and family engagement is in the educational success of the public school student?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann Davis, MPH
Executive Director



1200 Ala Kapuna Street λ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 λ Fax: (808) 839-7106 λ Web: www.hsta.org

Wil Okabe
President

Karolyn Mossman
Vice President

Joan Kamila Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer

Alvin Nagasako
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: GM 658, GM 655, GM 656, GM 652 – Gubernatorial Nominees for State of Hawaii Board of Education, **NANCY JO-YAMAKAWA BUDD, CHARLENE CUARESMA, CHERYL KA'UHANE LUPENUI, KEITH AMEMIYA**

Friday, April 8, 2011

WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports the appointment of **Nancy Jo-Yamanaka Budd, Charlene Cuaresma, Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui, Keith Amemiya**, to the Hawaii Board of Education.

Each of these nominees brings with them dedication, enthusiasm and a vast knowledge base to a Board of Education that will oversee the Department of Education with the Governor maintaining ultimate accountability.

Diverse backgrounds, hard working, experienced decision-makers, – these are all traits reflected in each of these individual nominees. These talents and abilities will join together to improve public education in Hawaii.

We urge your support in confirming Ms. Budd, Ms. Cuaresma, Ms. Lupenui, and Mr. Amemiya to the Board of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

April 5, 2011

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Robert A. Alm
Executive Vice President
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

Re: Confirmation of Mrs. Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui for Board of Education –
Governor's Message No. 656

Hearing date: Friday, April 8, 2011
Hearing time: 1:15 pm
Conference Room: Room 225, State Capitol

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui to be a member of the Board of Education. I have known Cheryl for over a decade and know her to be an outstanding leader with a great record of service to her community.

She has most recently served as CEO of the YWCA and in that capacity, built strong new programs and substantially renovated and restored her facilities. In particular, she devoted much of her time to programs aimed at young people including Culinary Arts for Enterprising Youth (Cafe Y); Camp Start Up; Life, Inc.; Youth Advisory Board; and Youth Leader Luncheon. She has a strong sense of the challenges that young people face these days and what it takes to engage them in positive ways.

In her work as a leader, she believes strongly that it is her responsibility to teach and to pass on her knowledge. She has taken every opportunity to work with students of all ages to understand the responsibilities of leaders, the practices of leaders, and the skills necessary to live productive and valued lives. Whenever I have asked her to speak to a group, she has always motivated and inspired the group to be better leaders.

And she has also faced lots of challenges, fiscal and otherwise, and in the process of doing so learned resilience, humility, the importance on inner strength and the ability to attack a problem by focusing on the critical issues and critical needs. I believe these experiences and these attributes will serve her well in this new endeavor.

Cheryl Lupenui has a career of serving people and the work that lies ahead as a member of the Board of Education is both enhanced by her experience and will continue the process of growing her skills.

I strongly urge your confirmation of her nomination.

April 6, 2011

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Barbra Pleadwell
First Vice Chair, YWCA of O'ahu Board of Directors
Partner, Hastings & Pleadwell: A Communication Company
1109 Bethel Street, Ste. 410
Honolulu, HI 96822

Re: Confirmation of Mrs. Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui for Board of Education –
Support
Hearing date: Friday, April 8, 2011
Hearing time: 1:15 pm
Conference Room: 225, State Capitol

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I have worked alongside Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui for a decade. She is a visionary building a legacy of servant leadership for our island state.

As a parent of a first grader in the public school system in Hawaii, I am ecstatic with our appointed board status, and am renewed in my faith that families like ours will be served well by people chosen by our administration for their talent, experience and commitment to raising the bar for public education in Hawaii.

Ms. Lupenui's track record for supporting island youth, specifically through intergenerational exchange and mentorship, is phenomenal. She has built the confidence of young girls (and women) through her example of leadership as a native woman and by building sustainable programs where people learn and return to serve in a complex and diverse network of lifelong service.

As the state grapples with public education challenges by focusing on community and family engagement, I see great potential for Ms. Lupenui to influence and inspire the networks supporting our schools to try new models for success. There is a strong feeling that there is a chance for our public schools to thrive with announcements like Ms. Lupenui's appointment.

Through her 13 years of service with the YWCA of Oahu, I have seen Ms. Lupenui build critical support among the business leaders of O'ahu through volunteerism, philanthropy and overall support for the unique nonprofit. She has

also brought national practices and philosophies to Hawaii, and customized execution according to our island sensitivities and local needs.

A champion of girls and women, Ms. Lupenui has also dedicated herself to cultural preservation. These civic and professional commitments make her specifically and uniquely qualified as a member of the Board of Education. Our family looks forward to her appointment.

Thank you.

April 6, 2011

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Marlene Zeug
Associate Director, Programs, YWCA O'ahu
1040 Richards Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Confirmation of Mrs. Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui for Board of Education –
Support
Hearing date: Friday, April 8, 2011
Hearing time: 1:15 pm
Conference Room: 225, State Capitol

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I have known and worked alongside Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui since 2006, first as a volunteer and most recently as the Associate Director of Programs for the YWCA.

Guiding the oldest and largest membership organization for women in Hawai'i as President & CEO for 10 years, Ms. Ka'uhane Lupenui dealt with the many diverse (and passionate) communities of the YWCA, balancing that against constrained resources – and the larger goal of bringing them together in pursuit of a common vision. As the Board will inevitably deal with challenging circumstances of budget, priorities and public opinion, these experiences have honed a skill set that will support her in her role as a member of the Board of Education.

Ms. Ka'uhane Lupenui's commitment to youth re-invigorated the YWCA's objective to nurture future leaders who are capable, resilient, and engaged in their communities. She guided the development of a creative model that engages the business community as mentors who work with young people to define their future and their aspirations in relation to their talents. Ms. Ka'uhane Lupenui's experience and perspective from a community-based organization will lend insights and give opportunities for creative solutions that connect across community sectors.

Ms. Ka'uhane Lupenui has also spent time on various Boards both local and national, including Aloha United Way. She has also been featured on numerous panels discussing community issues, including education and preparing our youth. Her knowledge of the local landscape and its various sectors, and its interplay with the educational system will be valuable as the Board evaluates and formulates educational policy.

As someone who has spent more than a decade coaching girls' basketball and tutoring youth, and who has 2 nieces in the public elementary school system, I am pleased that we have moved from an elected to an appointed Board. The Board of Education must navigate a fragmented system, competing priorities with constrained resources, the futures of our youth, and the changing face of education. It is imperative, then, that we select the most talented and qualified leaders, who will inspire and unite our community towards a vision grounded in bold thinking and new ideas.

Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui is one such person. I look forward to the confirmation of her appointment.

Thank you.

April 7, 2011

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Gail Mukaihata Hannemann
mukaihata@gmail.com

Re: Confirmation of Mrs. Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui for Board of Education –
Support

Hearing date: Friday, April 8, 2011

Hearing time: 1:15 pm

Conference Room: 225, State Capitol

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Good Afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui as an appointed Member of the Hawai'i Board of Education.

For the past nine years, I have had the privilege of professionally working with Cheryl in our capacities as the Chief Executive Officers of our respective nonprofit organizations – Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of O'ahu and Girl Scouts of Hawai'i. Initially what brought us together were the similar histories and common missions of our organizations. But what has kept us talking, interacting, and enjoying each other's company through the many years is our individual and collective commitments to bettering and strengthening the communities of this great State of Hawai'i.

What I continue to marvel at and respect is Cheryl's unwavering belief that every person can be a contributing member of society if given the opportunity to do so. For Cheryl, the early underpinnings begin with ensuring that every child has access to and is guaranteed a quality education, both inside and outside of the classroom setting. She knows that a child's continuum of learning is predicated on experiencing the wonderment of discovering how various academic subjects inform and shape one's understanding of the world. She is also keenly aware of the importance of framing one's learning within the context of values that reflect respect for self and others as well as a sense of place and time. Her impressive body of work at the YWCA is evidence of these convictions. She launched such programs as Culinary Arts for Enterprising Youth (CAFE Y), Camp \$tart Up, Life Inc, Youth Advisory Board, and Youth LeaderLuncheon.

But Cheryl has not limited herself to just her work at the YWCA. She continues to live her values and beliefs through her community work. She has participated in Youth Matters Network, a statewide network of youth-serving non-profit

organizations. She also serves on several community board and committees including the Aloha United Way, Kamehameha Schools Trustee Selection Committee, Center for Asian Pacific American Women, Hawai'i Tourism Authority's Hawaiian Cultural Advisory Committee, and Hogan's Entrepreneurs Advisory Board at Chaminade University. Another impressive example is how formed a partnership with the Institute for Women's Leadership, to create the Women Leading Change, Hawaii. This group provides leadership training and alumni network to 6 cohorts and 100 women.

Furthermore, Cheryl is a great example of what it means to be a life-long learner. She has not only earned a Bachelors of Business Administration from the University of Hawai'i and a Master in Business Administration from Tulane University but has completed graduate level course work at such great learning institutions as Harvard University and Stanford University. She has rounded out her academic business studies, by deepening her understanding of her cultural and racial heritage. As a graduated `olapa – hula student – of Halau Mohala `Ilima, she continues to study hula and the Native Hawaiian language.

When you consider these factors, along with Cheryl's other strengths such as her business acumen, entrepreneurial spirit, exceptional leadership skills, intellectual curiosity, and personal integrity, Cheryl is an ideal person to sit and serve on the newly constituted Board of Education. She, along with her colleagues, have the awesome responsibility of transforming the board into a functioning body that not only meets its statutory mandates but breaks new ground in demonstrating how to work cooperatively and responsibly with other stakeholders so students can experience true learning in ways that help them realize their full potential.

I consider it a great honor to support the nomination of Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui and do so without any reservations or hesitation. Like so many other times, she will humbly prove herself worthy of the great task before her. Her thoughtful queries, work ethics, and willingness to serve others will mean that the students, thereby, the State of Hawai'i will truly benefit.

Mahalo

[April 6, 2011]

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: [Boots Lupenui]
[Principal, Boots Lupenui Illustration and Design]
[46-122 Kiowai Street, #2812, Kane'ohe, Hawai'i, 96744
boots.lupenui@gmail.com, (808)840-7507]

Re: Confirmation of Mrs. Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui for Board of Education –
Support
Hearing date: Friday, April 8, 2011
Hearing time: 1:15 pm
Conference Room: 225, State Capitol
GM 656

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of my wife, Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui, for a position on the new Board of Education. When my wife first got the call asking if she would consider accepting a board position nomination, she did what she always does when faced with decisions of consequence- she did her homework. Cheryl did a good deal of research combing on-line archives, talking to people who were teachers and students in the public school system, talking to key community leaders and stakeholders to get their feedback, and talking to me to see if the position would be a good fit in our lives. This is the way she approaches questions of such import. What I appreciate about this is she never assumes she knows all there is to know and equips herself as fully as possible before making up her mind. This sort of humility, respect and curiosity has allowed her to gain information and knowledge that I believe she would not otherwise have access to.

Cheryl has always taken her responsibility as a community builder seriously, seeing herself as community leader and community member as well, recognizing that building communities requires leadership that is as understanding as it is strong. She also realizes the need to be a part of a community, be willing to do the necessary work, if one is to ask this same thing of others. She believes there is no more important work than securing the opportunity for a quality educational experience for each and every child in Hawai'i. Not just for the sake of the individual children, but for the sake of their families and the community at large. Our communities can only be as healthy as the children in them, for those are the children who will grow to lead these communities of ours.

Cheryl has valued her own education, taking an active role in her own experience. At one point while attending business school at the University of Hawai'i, she decided that she would like the opportunity to spend some time at one of the leading business schools in the world, McGill University in Montreal, Canada. When she was informed by the administration at the University of Hawai'i that no exchange program existed between McGill University and UH, Cheryl responded by taking it upon herself to create and develop such a program and proceeded to get the program accepted by both colleges, after which she applied for the program herself and was accepted, spending an invaluable semester at McGill before returning to the University of Hawai'i to graduate, after which she went on to Tulane University for her Master's degree.

Because of her own experience, she holds fiercely to the idea that all students should have opportunities and that, therefore, all students need to have strong support systems to help nurture those opportunities, including parents, teachers, counselors, community and business leaders, etc. She also recognizes the often heroic commitment on the part of educators, teaching in poor conditions, without much support, often paying for materials out of their own pockets, and so on. She believes that good teachers are a treasure to our entire society and that they should have not just our thanks and appreciation, but our real support as well.

I could go on and on about Cheryl and, indeed, it is tempting as I am her biggest fan. Not because she is my wife, but because of her nature. She is passionate, bright, informed, intensely curious, humble to a fault, incredibly responsible and loyal to the communities to which she belongs. I can honestly think of no better asset to the board of education than Cheryl. I believe she will work tirelessly to better the lives of our children, our teachers, our families and all of us who call Hawai'i home.

I humbly thank you for your time and your consideration.

Aloha,
Boots Lupenui

April 6, 2011

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Harry and Georgette Kauhane
310 Wampum Lane
Hedgesville, West Virginia 25427

Re: Confirmation of Mrs. Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui for Board of Education –
Support
Hearing date: Friday, April 8, 2011
Hearing time: 1:15 pm
Conference Room: 225, State Capitol

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

We are Cheryl Lehua Ka'uhane Lupenui's mother and father. We were quite sure that Cheryl would be a leader from an early age. While attending nursery school, when it was time to line up for activities, she was always the first in line. If someone tried to cut in front of her, Cheryl was able to hold her position in line.

As parents, we have always instilled in our children the importance of a good education. When Cheryl was in fifth grade, we made the decision to move to a better school system in Montgomery County, Maryland. She attended Spring Brook High School which was ranked as one of the top high schools in Montgomery County. Cheryl received all A's and she is listed in the Who's Who in American High Schools.

After graduating from high school, Cheryl attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. However, during her junior year, she applied and received admission to McGill University in Montreal, Canada, for a Study Abroad Program receiving excellent grades in her business courses. During her summer vacation, she interned in Senator Daniel Akaka's Senate Office in Washington, D.C., and held numerous part time jobs. In 1992, she earned her Masters Degree in International Business from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Growing up in Maryland as a family, we were very active with the Hawai'i State Society of Washington, D.C. serving as committee member's for the HSS

Annual Luau, Hukilau's, Holoku Balls, Cherry Blossom Festival, Children's Christmas Parties, and other social activities. Cheryl enjoyed taking hula and piano lessons during her formative years. Her father had a Hawaiian band and Hawaiian music was part of her life. These activities we believe were the driving force in her decision to attend school in the islands as a means to learn more about her Hawaiian heritage.

We know that Cheryl will be an integral member of the Board of Education and will work tirelessly to move education forward in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Georgette J. Kauhane
Harry D. Kauhane

Erin Conner

From: Pookela [plupenui@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 4:43 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support to Board of Education

April 6, 2011

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Pono Lupenui
45-075 Kahanahou Pl.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Re: Confirmation of Mrs. Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui for Board of Education - *Support*

* *Hearing date: Friday, April 8, 2011

Hearing time: 1:15 pm

Conference Room: 225, State Capitol

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of my aunty Cheryl for the Board of Education. I am a 2nd grader at Aikahi Elementary School. My Aunty always helps me with my school work and supports me in my athletic games. She is very helpful and intelligent. I hope that she gets this position so she can help other kids too.

Sincerely,

Pono Lupenui

April 4, 2011

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Maile Meyer
Native Books/Na Mea Hawaii
1050 Ala Moana Blvd, Suite 1000
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814

Re: Confirmation of Mrs. Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui for Board Education

Hearing Date: Friday, April 8, 2011
1:15p
225, State Capitol

Welina mai nei e Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I am pleased to have this opportunity to fully endorse the selection of Cheryl Lupenui for a seat on the Board of Education. I have known Cheryl for many years, in a variety of roles, as the head of the YWCA, a strategist on community projects, a hula practitioner, and a woman leader. In all cases, I have found her to be a clear thinking, passionate advocate for our communities, families and our children.

These are challenging times for our State and for entities like the Board of Education. Our hope is that our BOE members are willing to listen carefully and to act collaboratively so that necessary and timely changes are implemented in our education system. Cheryl will add a measured and caring voice to this discussion, while advocating and championing long-range vision. Thinking for generations to come is a Hawaiian perspective, and one that Cheryl embodies.

Mahalo for allowing me this opportunity to publically support Cheryl's nomination.

Me ka mahalo,

Maile Meyer

Senate
Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Friday, April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m.
Capitol Conference Room 225

Chairman Tokuda and members of the Committee on Education.

My name is Joan Lee Husted and I am submitting this testimony as an individual in support of Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui as a member of the appointed board of education. I urge your committee to recommend confirmation to the full Senate.

I have known Cheryl for more than fifteen years and worked with her as a member of the YWCA's Leadership Academy and the Aloha United Way Board. I believe that she demonstrate all of the qualifications listed in Act 005, section 302A-F. She enjoys a reputation for honesty, hard work and careful planning.

As CEO of the YWCA, she developed and executed a community building strategy to create a viable and sustainable business model for the organization. In her CEO role, she raised over \$14 million to renovate the YWCA's three historical buildings.

Her work with young people is extensive. It ranges from the development of the Culinary Arts for Youth, Life Inc. - a career and college exploration program for teens, the Youth Advisory Board and Young Leader Luncheon to hosting "Entrepreneurship," a Department of Education televised course to educate high school students on self-improvement and business plan writing skills.

With a commitment to education, demonstrated skills in business planning and execution as well as a solid background in working with number of community organizations ranging from Hawaii Tourism Authority to the Hogan's Entrepreneurs Advisory Board at Chaminade University, makes Cheryl well qualified to be a board of education member. It is this kind of support that those of us who worked in the public education field greatly appreciated.

I urge the committee to support the confirmation of Cheryl Lupenui as a Board of Education.

Joan Lee Husted
1615 Wilder Ave. Apt. 804
Honolulu, HI 96822